

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 EUR-12 /094 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO TUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2917

OECD CAPITALS IMMEDIATE 0075

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DEPT PASS BOEKER AND KATZ

OECD PARIS PASS PREEG

AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS ROBERT RYAN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD, EFIN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB: IMPASSE ON DEBT

REF: GENEVA 8022

1. G-77 DEMANDS FOR "DEFINITE AND FAVORABLE MEASURES TO RELIEVE DEBT BURDENS" FOR LLDCS AGAIN DOMINATED OCTOBER 14 MEETING OF CONTACT GROUP. THEY HAVE STATED THAT GROUP B FAILURE TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR LLDCS PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 98(IV) COULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON OTHER ASPECTS OF NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE.

2. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, G-19 SPOKESMEN ARE LEADING
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ADVOCATES FOR GROUP-77 ON THIS ISSUE. IT IS UNCLEAR

WHETHER THIS RESULTS FROM PRESSURE ON G-19 FROM OTHER MEMBERS G-77, OR WHETHER G-19 BELIEVE A DEADLOCK AT THE TDB ON DEBT MAY GIVE THEN TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN UPCOMING CIEC DISCUSSIONS.

3. THERE IS STRONG CONSENSUS AMONG GROUP B WORKING GROUP THAT WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PURSUE CURRENT POSITION AS OUTLINED REFTTEL.

4. IN ORDER TO AVOID ATMOSPHERE OF RECRIMINATION AT THIS RELATIVELY EARLY STAGE OF TDB, GROUP B WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN AGREED (IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF CONTACT GROUP AND GROUP 77 SPOKESMAN) TO ADVISE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS TO CONSULT WITH THEIR CAPITALS AT HIGH LEVELS IN ORDER TO CONVEY SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GROUP-77 VIEW SITUATION. GROUP B CHAIRMAN DID NOT GIVE ANY INDICATION THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN GROUP B POSITION, BUT TTHIS IMPRESSION MAY HAVE BEEN CREATED IN SOME LDC QUARTERS.

5. GROUP B WORKING GROUP MEMBERS HAVE CONSEQUENTLY AGREED TO CONSULT CAPITALS ASKING FOR GUIDANCE BY C.O.B. MONDAY, OCTOBER 18. WE HAVE ADVISED GROUP THAT USG POSITION ON THIS ISSUE IS FIRM, AND REMAINDER OF GROUP ARE ALSO CONFIDENT THATH THEIR GOVERNMENTS WILL SUPPORT MAINTAINING CURRENT GROUP B STAND.

6. GROUP B WORKING GROUP ENVISIONS FOLLOWING SCENARIO:
--BY C.O.B. MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, GROUP B WILL HAVE RECEIVED ENDORSEMENT OF CURRENT GROUP B POSITION FROM CAPITALS.

11ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, GROUP B WILL MAKE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT AFTER "DUE CONSIDERATION" OUR POSITION (AS OUTLINED REFTTEL) IS UNCHANGED.

--GROUP B WILL ATTEMPT TO CHANNEL DEBATE INTO A PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION, BUT MUCH WILL DEPEND ON ATTITUDE OF G-77.

--ONE OF KEY ISSUES WILL BE HOW TO DIRECT ONGOING UNCTAD CONSIDERATION OF LLDC ISSUE. IN ORDER TO SEPARATE LLDC SITUATION FROM DEBT, WE HAVE RECOM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENDED GROUP B CONSIDER SUGGESTING THAT THE OVERALL PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM THEIR DEBT BURDENS) BE INCLUDED AS AN AGENDA ITEM IN THE A1977 MINISTERIAL.

7. WE WILL ASSUME NO CHANGE IN USG POSITION, AND OPERATE ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS WE RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CONTRARY.

8. FOR AMEMBASSY PARIS: US DEL TO CIEC MAY WISH
TO CONSIDER CONTACTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF
G-19 IF US DEL BELIEVE SUCH DISCUSSIONS COULD LEAD
TO SOFTENING OF G-19 POSITION AT TDB.CATTO

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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